

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Reduces Rates for WPS and MGE Electric Customers

MADISON – Today, the Public Service Commission (PSC) reduced rates for Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) customers by \$14 million or nearly 2 percent and Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) customers by \$9.2 million or nearly 3 percent. The PSC has determined that fuel costs have fallen below a forecasted range set in previous rate cases, which means reduced rates for MGE and WPS ratepayers and relief on their upcoming electric bills.

"In last year's rate cases, runaway natural gas prices caused significant impacts on electric rates. In those cases we built in protections for Wisconsin ratepayers," said Chairperson Dan Ebert. "This has enabled us to provide real rate relief for MGE and WPS customers today."

Late last year, the Commission approved rate increases for both utilities, when natural gas prices were at an unprecedented high. At that time, the Commission required both utilities to reduce rates if fuel costs fell just 0.5 percent below the predetermined range set in each of the rate cases. Natural gas costs have since dropped below the range and the PSC has determined that customers are subject to refunds. Customers can expect to see these credits on their upcoming bills.

"I am pleased that our actions today will reduce MGE and WPS rates by over \$23 million," said Commissioner Mark Meyer. "We anticipated the drop in natural gas prices when we looked at rate cases last fall, and I am pleased that our actions are now benefiting customers."

Fuel rate cases such as these provide flexibility to react to volatile natural gas prices. In this case, fuel costs fell below a predetermined range, requiring PSC review. The PSC will continue to monitor natural gas prices to determine if further refunds are necessary.

Documents associated with these cases can be viewed on our Electronic Regulatory Filing System at: http://psc.wi.gov/. Type case numbers 6690-FR-100 and 3270-FR-100 in the boxes provided on the PSC homepage, or click on Electronic Regulatory Filing System button.

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